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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6127**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1046

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 22, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Apprentice Hunting Licenses.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Bischoff

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes an apprentice hunting license that allows an individual to hunt when accompanied by a hunter who is at least 18 years of age. It provides that an apprentice hunter is not required to take the hunter education course and may not obtain more than three apprentice licenses in the individual's lifetime.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Natural Resources Study Committee.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may issue an apprentice hunting license to a resident or nonresident in lieu of any hunting license. An apprentice hunter may hunt in Indiana without completing the course of instruction in hunter education offered by the DNR or the DNR's agent.

The DNR can add the category of "apprentice license" to the menu screens of existing retailer and online point-of-sale (iPOS) systems as a 4<sup>th</sup> license category, along with the fishing, hunting, and combo license. "Apprentice" will appear on the licenses similar to any other license type available without a great deal of development cost. Costs for adding the apprentice category will be approximately \$5,500.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The Natural Resources Commission must establish a fee to be paid by an applicant for an apprentice hunting license. An individual may not purchase more than three apprentice hunting licenses during the individual's lifetime. Initially the age class of potential hunters would be those additional hunters under the age of 21. Those born before 12/31/86 (22 or older) already do not need to have

hunter education.

The DNR plans to offer the apprentice licenses for the a same price as regular hunting licenses. Initially, the increase in revenue, if any, would not be significant, but as the age class grows each year, revenue could increase. The specific amount of revenue that will be generated by the sale of apprentice licenses is indeterminable.

License fee revenue is deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, which is used to finance the operations of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Law Enforcement.

Background. In Indiana, total license sales decreased from 904,097 in 2005 to 899,638 in 2006, for a less than 1% decline. License sales generated \$15 M in 2005 and \$17.7 M in 2006. The increase in revenue in 2006 was the result of an increase in fees.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR.

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